

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-13, 15 and 16 have been pending in the application.

Claims 2-6, 12, 13 and 15 are allowed.

Claims 7, 8, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Freed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,068).

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freed in view of Itoh (U.S. Patent No. 6,795,912).

Claim 2 is objected to because of an informality.

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

According to the foregoing, the objected to dependent claim 2 is amended to correct the dependency, taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

According to the foregoing, the rejected independent claims 7 and 15 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice.

According to the foregoing, objected to allowed dependent claim 9, which depends from independent claim 8, is amended into independent form and independent claim 8 is cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, thus placing independent claim 9 into condition for allowance.

Therefore, it is understood that remaining pending claims 2-7, 9-13, and 15 are allowed, and the application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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